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the investigation of the French law. Aside from the final chapter, the reader is left to make his comparisons from his own knowledge of the English law. As the book is small, the treatment of the different subjects taken up is necessarily brief. The author first outlines the different kinds of evidence admissible in civil cases, and then touches on the method of examining witnesses and introducing proof. Then after describing the method of conducting criminal trials, he finally points out what he considers the salient advantages of each system with particular reference to the jury. The treatment of the subject is by design sketchy rather than exhaustive. Although a lawyer might not agree with the conclusions reached by the author in his comparisons, he would find the book interesting and instructive, and its brevity would no doubt recommend it to the casual student who wishes to gain an idea of the method of procedure in France. But the purpose expressed by the author to make the book simple enough for the lay mind to comprehend seems hardly to have been successfully carried out.

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**PROBATE REPORTS ANNOTATED:** Containing Recent Cases of General Value Decided in the Courts of the Several States on Points of Probate Law. With Notes and References. By George A. Clement. Vol. VIII. With Index to Vols. I. to VIII., Inclusive. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Company. 1904. pp. li, 838. 8vo.

The plan of this series of reports is "to give in about one volume a year, contemporaneous or recent decisions of the highest courts of the different states of the Union upon all matters cognizable in probate and surrogate courts." It is distinguished from its predecessor, the "American Probate Reports," by the greater attention paid to annotations. The present volume contains cases decided between February, 1902, and June, 1903, one hundred and fifteen in all. The notes are fewer than in previous volumes, which is perhaps due to the fact that the ground has been pretty well covered. The important notes are those on costs and attorney or counsel fees, paraphernalia, and set-off or counterclaim as affecting estate. An interesting short note is that on mental capacity to make a will as affected by spiritualism. The general index of the series, both of notes and of cases, which appears for the first time in this volume, gives it an added value as a work of reference.

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**THE NATIONAL BANK ACT** with all its amendments annotated and explained. By John M. Gould. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1904. pp. xvi, 288. 8vo.

The title of this book well explains its nature. The National Bank Act of 1864 is given, the numerous amendments down to the present time being inserted in the proper places. The whole is annotated with the decisions, both federal and state, explaining or modifying the various provisions. The plan admits ready reference to see what sections have been passed upon. Conflicts in decisions are compared so as to show the weight of authority, and the more than seven hundred cases cited come down to September, 1904. Appendixes give the constitution of the American Bankers' Association, the constitutions and rules of the New York and Boston clearing house associations, and the articles of association of the Chicago clearing house. Separate indexes for the body of the work and for the appendixes are given. The volume seems well adapted to its purpose of practical service.